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State Names New Administrator for Child and Family Services

Kirsten Coulombe brings policy, analytical experience to protecting vulnerable Nevadans

Carson City, NV— The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has named Kirsten Coulombe as the new administrator for the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS).

As a senior research analyst for the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau, Coulombe worked with state legislators on best practices related to Medicaid, child welfare, mental health and other issues important to the well-being of children. For the last three legislative sessions, Coulombe served as the policy analyst for the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services. From 2009 to 2010, she was a management analyst for the Child Health Insurance Program, implementing state and federal mandates to ensure that children received access to health coverage.

As a consumer care program coordinator in the private sector, she connected disabled persons with life-changing services and conducted many health care outreach programs in both English and Spanish. Then, as a long-term care ombudsman from 2005 to 2008, Coulombe advocated for the rights of families watching over their loved ones in long-term-care facilities.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to become a part of the Division of Child and Family Services, and join the team of dedicated employees who make a difference every day in the lives of Nevada's children and their families," Coulombe said. "I chose early on to devote my career to public service and am honored to be able to continue that in my new role."

Coulombe graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in sociology. She then went on to earn a master's of public administration from the University of Southern California in 2004.

“Kirsten’s experience with health and social policy will provide the kind of analytical and practical leadership that Nevada’s children and families need at this division,” DHHS Director Richard Whitley said. “We look forward to the benefits her knowledge will bring to many individuals.”

Coulombe is set to begin as the DCFS administrator on Aug. 17. She takes over for Amber Howell, who left the position this summer to take over as head of the Washoe County Department of Social Services.

Broadcast media: Pronunciation of Kirsten Coulombe is “keerstehn cool-aum.”

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Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
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